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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

## REPORT

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COUNTRY	China
SUBJECT	Political
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED	Shang-hai
DATE PUBLISHED	3 November 1948
LANGUAGE	Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1948

DATE DIST. <sup>22</sup> December 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2 13700

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Chung-yang Jih-pao (Central News Daily), No 2282, 1948. (Translation requested.)

## SINKIANG ELECTIONS

Although the gubernatorial election in Sinkiang is still far off, a great deal of interest is being shown in this achievement, a milestone of provincial democracy.

Special personnel and hsien chiefs have already been elected and, unlike those in the interior, these officials are really representative of the people. Central Government administration of the province is designed only to lead it on the road to peace, democracy, and prosperity. This responsibility has been borne by Chang Wen-pai (Chang Chih-chung).

Popular election of governors is not something that can be brought about overnight, especially in view of the present Chinese domestic situation. Sinkiang is like an infant, too young to leave its mother and pursue an independent course. We believe that the election definitely will be held, but the time is still not ripe. Participants are very active, however, and while the campaign is not as heated or extensive, it resembles that for the vice-presidency.

Masud Sabri, the present governor, is one of the candidates. He has an impressive reputation and is widely supported. He is experienced, trusted by the Central Government, and holds a high position among the Moslem inhabitants of the province. His only drawback is his advanced age.

Ma-lang-chun, another candidate, is a provincial officer of the Control Yuan and leader of the Moslem religion in Sinkiang. He is supported by a large segment of his Moslem brethren.

Al-so is Uighur who holds the position of secretary-general of the provincial government. His main strength lies with the Turkish-speaking youths, especially the well-educated.

Pao-erh-han, also a Uighur, is now head of the Sinkiang Academy. He was formerly associated with the Sui-ting (I-li) group and can depend on that relationship for financial aid in his campaign.

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Dr Yao-lo, a Uighur, is included in the category of special personnel or Ha-mi. His main strength is located in eastern Sinkiang.

Ku-li-mu-han is a Kazakh and at present holds the position of chief of the provincial finance office.

Se-i-t'i holds the grade of special personnel and is a member of the gentry.

Liu Hsiao-li is a Chinese who was an advisor during the Sheng Shih-ts'ai period. He was not a follower of Sheng, however, and is now head of the Social Affairs Department.

I-min, also a Uighur, is head of the Reconstruction Office.

There are others, also, who would not be averse to high position, such as Liu Meng-ch'un (shun), secretary-general of the Northwest Headquarters, who is said to be planning to participate in the campaign. He is a recent arrival and cannot be properly judged at present.

The outcome of the election cannot be predicted, but looking at the province as a whole, and at its racial distribution, the Central Government would be willing to support a Uighur as the governor of Sinkiang.

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